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Sen. Kuipers opposes bill denying Michigan Merit Awards to students attending out-of-state colleges

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today voted against a measure that would mean state students attending out-of-state colleges wouldn't be able to receive the Michigan Merit Award.

“Whatever our state's budget problems, we shouldn't be cutting things that enable young people to attend college,” Kuipers said. “This proposal takes away something that many of this year's seniors were hoping for to help them further their education.”

Senate Bill 1376, sponsored by the Senate Democratic leader, would mean that Michigan students who plan to attend out-of-state colleges and universities would be ineligible for the \$1,000 award. The bill covers students who graduate high school in 2005. Students attending service academies would not be affected by the bill.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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